

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 30: REPORT OF THE UNITED

NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (E/5853) AND

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/L.1730

1. SUMMARY: QUOTED BELOW AS PARAGRAPH SEVEN OF THIS TELEGRAM  
IS A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON UNHCR DRAFTED BY PAKISTAN AND CO-SPONSORED  
BY ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, IRAN, IVORY COAST,  
JORDAN AND YUGOSLAVIA. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS SCHEDULED TO BE  
INTRODUCED IN PLENARY ON 28 JULY WITH FINAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN  
EITHER ON 28 JULY OR 29 JULY. PAKISTAN AND DEPUTY UNHCR, CHARLES  
MACE, HAVE ASKED IF THE US IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CO-SPONSOR.  
THE US ECOSOC DELEGATION HEREBY REQUESTS THE COMMENTS AND  
INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DEPT ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY

2. THE COUNCIL BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM ON 26 JULY AND  
AFTER FIRST RECEIVING A LETTER DATED 23 JULY ADDRESSED TO THE

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR REFUGEES (LETTER REPRODUCED AS PARAGRAPH SIX OF THIS  
TELEGRAM), HEARD A LONG INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER  
ON THE FUNCTIONAL EVOLUTION OF HIS OFFICE ESPECIALLY OVER  
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THE PAST FEW YEARS AND ESPECIALLY PERTAINING TO INSTITUTIONAL

DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO HIS OFFICE IN THE FRAMEWORK  
OF SO-CALLED "MAN MADE DISASTERS."

3. BRIEF STATEMENTS WARMLY PRAISING THE WORK OF UNHCR AND ITS HIGH COMMISSIONER, PRINCE SADRUDIN AGA KHAM, WERE MADE BY ALGERIA, PAKISTAN, YEMEN, FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA, GREECE AND THAILAND WITH PAKISTAN INDICATING IT PLANNED TO TABLE A DRAFT RESOLUTION. THE OBSERVER FOR THE OAU ALSO MADE A SHORT STATEMENT EULOGIZING UNHCR.

4. THE US DELEGATION IS IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING AN ENGLISH TEXT OF THE PRINCE'S 20 PAGE STATEMENT, DELIVERED IN FRENCH, WHICH WILL BE PROMPTLY POUCHED TO THE DEPT.

5. COMMENT: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION IS THAT INTER ALIA IT WOULD IN EFFECT SANCTIFY WHAT HAS ALREADY OCCURED IN SEVERAL INSTANCES (E.G. CYPRUS) BE EXTENDING UNHCR'S MANDATED FUNCTIONS TO INCLUDE ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS "DISPLACED" WITHIN THEIR OWN NATIONAL TERRITORY AS A RESULT OF MAN-MADE DISASTERS, AS DISTINCT FROM "REFUGEES" WHO CROSS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES. WE NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN UNDRO'S COORDINATING ROLE IN NATURAL AND "OTHER" DISASTERS AND UNHCR'S OPERATIONAL FUNCTION, WHICH WE BELIEVE CAN BE RECONCILED THROUGH PROPER COOPERATION.

6. BEGIN TEXT.

LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1976 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE COUNCIL BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR REFUGEES

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO MY REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN THE ECOSOC AGENDA OF AN ITEM ENTITLED "REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES". THE ITEM IS SCHEDULED TO BE TAKEN UP BY THE COUNCIL ON MONDAY, 26 JULY 1976.

IN THIS CONNEXION, A NUMBER OF QUERIES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED TO MY OFFICE BY DELEGATES TO THE COUNCIL ON THE CONTENTS OF MY STATEMENT ON MONDAY AND ON THE SUBJECTS THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE COMMENTS UPON. IN ORDER NOT TO BURDEN THE COUNCIL'S WORKLOAD, I CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO CLARIFY THE EXACT CONTEXT OF THIS AGENDA ITEM AND THE REASONS FOR WHICH MY OFFICE REQUESTED ITS INCLUSION:  
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(I) AS REPRESENTATIVES ARE AWARE, THE COUNCIL DECIDED SOME YEARS AGO THAT "THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHOUT DEBATE UNLESS THE COUNCIL DECIDED OTHERWISE AT THE REQUEST OF ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA". THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY AND IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO SUGGEST A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF SITUATIONS EXAMINED IN THE REPORT CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/5853 OF 2 JUNE 1976.

(II) CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO COMMENT  
ON ANY SPECIFIC SITUATION OF CONERN TO UNHCR WHICH IS COVERED  
BY THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REPORT.

(III) THE PURPOSE OF MY REQUEST WAS EXCLUSIVELY TO INFORM THE  
COUNCIL, IN A PURELY TECHNICAL CONTEXT, OF THE FUNCTIONAL EVOLUTION  
OF MY OFFICE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. MY STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL  
WOULD, THEREFORE, DEAL ONLY WITH INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS  
DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO MY OFFICE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SO-CALLED  
"MAN-MADE DISASTERS".

THIS WOULD ENABLE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, WHO MAY SO WISH,  
TO DIRECT THEIR COMMENT TO THE TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL  
ASPECTS OF UNHCR'S ACTIVITIES.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD SHARE THE ABOVE WITH THE  
COUNCIL IN ANY MANNER THAT YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.

(SIGNED) SADRUDDIN AGA KHAM

7. BEGIN TEXT.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, IRAN, IVORY COAST,  
JORDAN, PAKISTAN AND YUGOSLAVIA: DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,  
RECALLING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3454 (XXX) OF 9 DECEMBER  
1975 AND EARLIER PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATING TO THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,  
REAFFIRMING THE EMINENTLY HUMANITARIAN CHARACTER OF THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE BENEFIT OF REFUGEES  
AND DISPLACED PERSONS,  
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ESSENTIAL HUMANITARIAN TASKS  
UNDERTAKEN BY HIS OFFICE IN THE CONTEXT OF MAN-MADE DISASTERS,  
IN ADDITION TO ITS ORIGINAL FUNCTIONS,  
NOTING THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
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REFUGEES 1/ AND THE ORAL STATEMENT MADE BY HIM ON VARIOUS ASPECTS  
OF HIS HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES, 2/

1. COMMENDS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF  
REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS, VICTIMS OF MAN-MADE DISASTERS,  
REQUIRING URGENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE;
2. REQUESTS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CONTINUE HIS ACTIVITIES,  
IN CO-OPERATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, UNITED NATIONS BODIES,  
APPROPRIATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES,  
FOR ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERING OF ALL THOSE OF CONCERN TO HIS  
OFFICE AND PROMOTING PERMANENT AND SPEEDY SOLUTIONS TO THEIR  
PROBLEMS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF URGENTLY REQUIRED RELIF  
ASSISTANCE, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THEIR RE-  
HABILITATION, INTEGRATION OR RESETTLEMENT;
3. CALLS UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE AND  
FURTHER STRENGTHEN ITS SUPPORT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER;

4. TRANSMITS THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONSL HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES 1/ TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS  
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION.

1/ E/5853 AND CORR.1                  1/ E/5853 AND CORR.1.

2/ E/SR.2027.                  END TEXT ABRAMS

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